



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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**14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**  
**Deputy Mark Ward,**  
**Dail Eireann,**  
**Dublin 2.**

**PQ Number 38757/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the public treatment services available to persons under 18 years of age presenting with an eating disorder; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE developed and approved a Model of Care for Eating disorders that creates specialist regional teams with skilled clinicians that can provide evidence based interventions collaborating with acute hospital physicians and GPs as required. Early intervention and evidence based treatment by multi-disciplinary specialist community eating disorder teams is recommended by the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders with a focus on both psychological and physical recovery. The Model of Care was launched in 2018 and continued implementation is vital to deliver access to high quality eating disorders in Ireland.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/moc/hse-eating-disorder-services-model-of-care.pdf>

There are currently 2 Eating Disorder specialist community teams based in CAMHS, one in CHO4 Cork and Kerry Regional Eating Disorder Service CAREDS (operational since May 2019) and the other based in CHO 7 Linn Dara Community Eating Disorder Service LDCEDS (operational since April 2018).

Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the 4 CAMHS inpatient approved centres. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. There are currently 20 dedicated eating disorder beds across the four 4 CAMHS units; Linn Dara, Dublin, St Vincents in Dublin, Eist Linn in Cork and Merlin Park, Galway.

As part of the new children's hospital development, there will be an additional 8 specialist eating disorder beds as part of a new 20 bedded CAMHS inpatient approved centre.

If an individual is concerned about themselves or someone known to them, they should be directed to their GP in the first instance for primary care screening assessment and examination. Their GP may then make recommendations which may include, if clinically indicated, referral to the secondary care mental health



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services for full eating disorder assessment.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services